

From: LWillo1124@aol.com [mailto:LWillo1124@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2006 9:48 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc: gaines@lifesci.ucsb.edu; SusanatPGLaw@aol.com; LWillo1124@aol.com
Subject: Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge Designation as State Marine Reserve

Melissa: Your e-mail re: the Science Advisory Team (SAT) meeting in San Jose today (1/20/06) was sent yesterday (1/19/06), so I would like these comments presented to the SAT for their consideration. Please add these comments to the MLPA comments as well.

Tidepool Coalition aka

COALITION TO PRESERVE and RESTORE PT. PINOS TIDEPOOLS
P.O. Box 433, Pacific Grove, California 93950

Within these areas, no risk of change is considered acceptable unless it is part of a natural process*

January 20, 2006

To: MLPA Science Advisory Team

From: Jim Willoughy, Chairman

We were made aware of your meeting today by the e-mail from melissa@resources.com on the 1/19/05.

Since the Coalition was not included in the CCRSG, we continue to work with the public, and people of Pacific Grove who have shown great interest in full protection for the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge. In fact, in June, 2000 the voters of Pacific Grove overwhelmingly supported a successful citywide Tidepool Preservation Initiative which became a municipal ordinance.

The Tidepool Coalition along with its supporters support the CCRSG's Proposal 2 for the central California coast with our major objection being the piecemeal approach to compromising the integrity of the Pacific Grove Refuge. We are vehemently opposed to splitting this historically significant refuge bordering the entire coastal city limits into SMR's as each end and having a SMCA in the middle (the very heart of the refuge)

It doesn't make good scientific sense in view of the legislative intent of A.B. 993, it doesn't make good enforcement and management sense with a mishmash of designations for the city's coastline, and it does not set well with the community which has petitioned repeatedly for a SMR, a totally protected area. It doesn't set well with the community to break up the integrity of this irreplaceable refuge which is an ecological continuum.

On October 5, 2005 when the Pacific Grove City Council passed Resolution 5-035 supporting Designation of the Pacific Grove Marine Refuge as a State Marine Reserve under the California MLPA Act, it included a recommendation that 'existing kelp harvesters are exempted from the prohibition of taking plant life.' There are 2 existing kelp harvesters. You cannot design future MMA's for two individuals.

The Pacific Grove Coastal Parks Plan was mandated by the California Coastal Commission and adopted by the Pacific Grove City Council August, 1998.

It "seeks to maximize protection of the rich and diverse water and marine resources along the Pacific Grove shoreline. In particular, the following five areas are protected and controlled by local and state regulations, and are considered to hold special significance.....

**Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge
Hopkins Marine Life Refuge
Areas of Special Biological Significance
Crespi Pond (wetland)
Majella Slough (wetland)**

These areas hold extraordinary value and warrant special protection, including preservation and maintenance of their natural condition. Within these areas, no risk of change to their environment is considered acceptable unless it is part of the natural process."

Pacific Grove is a community that values its unique marine heritage. The Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge is the only fish refuge in the State of California and lies with a National Marine Sanctuary. It must be totally protected and preserved in its entirety with the highest designation of a State Marine Reserve to provide a haven for marine life, an ecosystem that can be studied by the researchers, educators and students and enjoyed by the general public in its natural state without extractive activities. It must be an area set aside for true conservation into perpetuity.

The Tidepool Coalition supports the CCRSG's Proposal 2 with the exception that the entire Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge receive the same designation as Hopkins Marine Life Refuge, that is, as a SMR. As Dr. Gaines told the BRTF at their last meeting in Monterey, the larger the reserve the more benefits to the marine life. Rather than breaking our refuge into smaller components, it should be a total SMR or as Dr. Gaines said, "the Mother of All Reserves".

The Coalition and the people of this community will continue to work toward this end.

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Willoughby, Chairman
Tidepool Coalition
831-372-0123
lwill1124@aol.com